

Fearless

FOOTBALL PLAYER

Isaiah Bingham is legally blind, but he doesn't let that stop him from following his dreams

Isaiah Bingham had been practicing football with the team at his Delaware middle school for weeks. The 12-year-old suited up for the first game of the 2022 season. Like his teammates, Isaiah was excited and nervous. But he faced a challenge that no one else on the team did. Isaiah is legally blind.

Isaiah was born with a condition that prevented his eyes from forming properly. He can only see things right in front of him clearly.

When Isaiah was a baby, a doctor told his parents that the only sport he could safely do was swimming. But Isaiah has never let his poor eyesight stop him from achieving his goals—including playing football.

In the summer of 2020, Isaiah tried out for a youth football league. He did so well, he was the second player chosen for his team. Isaiah's dad told the coaches about his son's eyesight. Until then, the coaches had no idea.

During the season, Isaiah dazzled. He loves making tackles and forcing opponents to drop the ball. The coaches made Isaiah one of the team captains.

A coach affectionately nicknamed Isaiah "Vision." He said he chose the name because Isaiah has a clear vision for what he wants out of life. That nickname has stuck with him ever since. He now plays for the Lions at Red Lion Christian Academy.

"Vision is better than sight," says Isaiah. "I see things differently than other people, but I can do anything."

—Nicole Tocco and
Jess McKenna-Ratjen

